

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:DFHART:LS

APPROVED BY EB PAUL E. BOEKER

EB/ORF/FSE:MVCREEKMORE

EB/ORF:SWBOSWORTH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301590

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC

SUBJECT: OPEC PRICE DECISION

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. SEPTTEL PROVIDES INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTS IN CERTAIN OPEC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA, FOR NEW DISCRETIONARY DEMARCHES ON THE OPEC PRICE DECISION PRIOR TO THE DOHA MEETING. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE SAUDIS AND, DRAWING FROM SEPTTEL AS APPROPRIATE, ADVISE THEM ON THE COMPREHENSIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT WE HAVE BEEN MAKING TO INFLUENCE THE IMPENDING OPEC PRICE DECISION. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT, IN RESPONSE TO THE EARLIER SAUDI REQUEST, WE HAVE MADE A PARTICULARLY INTENSIVE EFFORT WITH THE IRANIANS AND VENEZUELANS, INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS TO THE SHAH AND PRESIDENT PEREZ AND CANDID DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THESE COUNTRIES' AMBASSADORS. YOU COULD ADD THAT WE HOPE OUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF THE EFFORTS WHICH SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE
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MAKING TO ENSURE A RESPONSIBLE OUTCOME AT DOHA. IF

APPROPRIATE, YOU COULD ALSO REITERATE THE ECONOMIC
ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE NEW PRICE INCREASE CONTAINED IN
SEPTEL. ROBINSON

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